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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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NEWSLETTER

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April 1, 1959

1959 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

farmers for conservation practices for which they need cost-sharing to carry out. Soil testing is recommended in all cases, and is compulsory with the establishment of grass and legume covers. A fertile soil has a wider range of adapted crops, including grasses and legumes, than does an infertile soil.

County ASC Committees are still receiving requests from

The final planting date for rye cover has been advanced to November 15 from November 30. The State Committee and Agronomist believe that after November 15 the chances of getting a cover to control erosion over winter are very slim. Farmers still may want to sow rye on their own after November 15, expecting a cover to plow down late in the spring. However, in order to receive cost-sharing, a cover should get enough growth to control erosion over winter. Leaching and erosion -- two conditions which farmers must live with, and fight against daily -- hold the key to basic soil fertility.

U. S. WOOL GROWERS EXPAND FLOCKS

second year in a row. The number of stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches last January 1 was 4 percent larger than a year earlier and the highest since 1948. The increase is attributed to generally favorable range and forage conditions, relatively high lamb prices and the wool incentive program.

U. S. wool producers expanded their flocks in 1958 for the

Sheep farmers who sold their unshorn lambs and wool before March 31 must report their sales to their county ASC office before April 30, 1959, in order to qualify for the incentive payment payable this summer. Sales after March 31, 1959, will be eligible for payment under the 1959 program, which runs from April 1, 1959 through March 31, 1960.

FARMERS URGED TO LOOK AHEAD ON STORAGE

farmers without adequate storage may wish to consider providing more farm storage. The USDA offers a loan program for storage facilities whereby a farmer may borrow up to 80 percent of the cost of the facility, through the Commodity Credit Corporation, payable in four yearly installments. If drying equipment is desired, 75 percent of the cost may be borrowed from the CCC payable in three yearly installments. Further details are available at the County ASC Offices.

With a large planted 1959 crop of corn in sight,



## TREE PLANTING HIGHEST IN HISTORY

reached an all-time high, with the plantings under the Soil Bank Conservation Reserve making a substantial contribution to the total. A Department of Agriculture report shows that 1,568,708 acres of trees were planted during the fiscal year 1958. This is double the 1953 total, triple the plantings in 1950, and nearly 10 times the average planted in 1930.

Approximately 518 acres of trees will be planted in Delaware this spring under the Conservation Reserve Program. Tree planting is the second most popular conservation use for which farmers have contracted under the program, grass cover ranking first.

## USDA CONTINUES CURRENT DAIRY SUPPORT PRICES FOR ANOTHER YEAR

marketing year which begins April 1. They are being continued at \$3.06 per cwt. for manufacturing milk and 56.6¢ per lb. for butterfat. USDA as in the past will offer to purchase butter, cheddar cheese, and nonfat dry milk in carlot quantities. The 1959 support rates are about 77% of both parity equivalent price for manufacturing milk and parity price for butterfat, based on March parity prices as announced February 27.

Support prices for manufacturing milk and butterfat will be continued through 1959-60

## MEASUREMENT OF WHEAT ACREAGE BY ASC PERFORMANCE REPORTERS

acreage. Official notices of measurement will be sent to each farmer as soon as the measurement has been determined. The notice the farmer receives will be either a "Within Notice" which indicates that the wheat acreage determined for the farm is within the established allotment, or an "Excess Notice" which indicates that the wheat acreage determined for the farm is more than the established allotment. Those farmers in excess of their allotment must adjust their acreage to 15 acres or to the allotment whichever is larger, except that if the adjustment is made to 15 acres and this is larger than the allotment, they will not be eligible for price support. An exception to this would be those farmers who have been approved under the "30-acre Feed Wheat Exemption Program" whereby the entire acreage, not to exceed 30 acres, is used on the farm for seed, human feed, or feed for livestock. The excess acreage must be adjusted by May 31, and may be accomplished by grazing, mowing, plowing, or disking but, with either method the disposition must be to the extent that none of the wheat will mature as grain. Any questions concerning the determined acreage for a farm should be directed to the county ASC office.

Every wheat farm in the State will be visited by April 20 to determine the 1959 wheat

## 1959 PLANTING INTENTIONS REPORTED

1959 -- 23 percent more than a year earlier, while the intended 162,000 acres of soybeans is down 3 percent from the record level set last year. These two crops now account for about 3/4 of the total acreage of field crops in Delaware. For the other crops, farmers will have 29,000 acres of wheat -- 2,000 acres less than a year earlier; oats, 8,000 acres -- down 1,000 acres; barley, 20,000 acres -- unchanged from 1958; hay, 50,000 acres -- down 3,000 acres. February intentions for early summer potatoes indicated 9,500 acres for 1959 -- 1,500 acres less than the 1958 crop.

Delaware farmers intend to plant 165,000 acres of corn in

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Delaware ASC State Office  
Courtney and Academy Streets  
Newark, Delaware

FOR THE DELAWARE ASC STATE COMMITTEE

*Paul W. Mitchell*  
Paul W. Mitchell  
State Administrative Officer